

Executive Order 2006-15
Designation of Williams Gateway Airport as a Military Reuse Zone

WHEREAS, Williams Air Force Base closed on September 30, 1993, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law No: 101-510), and the recommendations of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Committee; and

WHEREAS, Williams Air Force Base was used for operational purposes and training of the active uniformed services of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Williams Air Force Base was the largest flying training base in the free world and, during its fifty-two years of operation, graduated more than 26,000 student pilots and trained twenty-five to thirty percent of the nation's yearly output of U.S. Air Force pilots; and

WHEREAS, the closure of Williams Air Force Base resulted in the loss of more than 3,800 jobs and \$300 million of economic activity, and the State of Arizona and local communities, faced with the challenge of replacing these losses, formed a unique partnership to develop a comprehensive economic reuse plan for Williams Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, a primary component of this economic reuse initiative was the 1992 enactment of Arizona's "Defense Restructuring and Military Reuse Zone Programs," a forward-thinking legislative framework for designating closed military bases in Arizona as "Military Reuse Zones," including targeted economic incentives for aviation and aerospace businesses creating new jobs and making capital investments within these zones; and

WHEREAS, the Williams Gateway Airport Authority desired to establish a civil airport on a portion of the lands comprising Williams Air Force Base and applied to the Air Force for a public benefit transfer of such lands with improvements thereon, together with certain related personal property, under section 47151, of Title 49 of the United States Code; and

WHEREAS, the Air Force determined that the property identified in the Williams Gateway Airport Authority's Application was excess and approved and accepted the Application, pursuant to its authority under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law No: 101-510), to dispose of the real property and related personal property comprising a portion of Williams Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Air Force ultimately transferred to the Williams Gateway Airport Authority title to the premises and property consisting of certain lands with improvements thereon, comprising a portion of Williams Air Force Base, more particularly described in the quitclaim deed executed on the 14th of April 1998 and recorded in Maricopa County on the 30th of April 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Williams Gateway Airport was designated a Military Reuse Zone pursuant to Executive Order 96-12 in 1996, and it remained a Military Reuse Zone until July, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Military Reuse Zone designation at Williams Gateway Airport has been an important component of the economic redevelopment strategy that attracted 39 companies and created 1,431 jobs in the zone since 1996; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Commerce has requested, by letter dated October 6, 2006, that Williams Gateway Airport be designated as a Military Reuse Zone, pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1531, for a period of ten years from the date of designation; and,

WHEREAS, the reinstitution of the Military Reuse Zone designation will continue to facilitate state and local economic readjustment efforts by providing opportunities for commercial and industrial development, including major infrastructure improvements that will spur job creation and accelerate redevelopment growth;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arizona by the Constitution and Laws of this State, and pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1531, do hereby:

1. Designate as a Military Reuse Zone the Williams Gateway Airport premises and property consisting of certain lands with improvements thereon comprising a portion of Williams Air Force Base, more particularly described in the quitclaim deed executed on the 14th of April 1998 and recorded in Maricopa County on the 30th of April 1998; and
2. Set the termination date for this Military Reuse Zone for ten years from the date of this designation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.


GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 19th day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Six and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-first.

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

